

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /083 W

-----027106 211402Z /44

P R 211511Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7849

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT SF SHUM

SUBJ: TWO MAJOR TRIALS BEGIN IN PRETORIA

REF: PRETORIA 3004, PRETORIA 2315

1. ON JUNE 20, TWO SEPARATE TRIALS OF MAJOR IMPORTANCE
BEGAN IN PRETORIA. TRIAL OF BREYTEN BREYTENBACH, AFRIKANER
POET ALREADY SERVING 9-YEAR SENTENCE UNDER TERRORISM ACT,
OPENED AT PRETORIA SUPREME COURT. THAT OF TWELVE BLACKS
CHARGED WITH VARIOUS CONNECTIONS TO ANC BEGAN IN PRETORIA'S
OLD SYNAGOGUE. REFTELS DESCRIBE IN DETAIL CHARGES LAID
AGAINST DEFENDENTS IN BOTH TRIALS BY STATE.

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2. BREYTENBACH APPEARED ONLY BRIEFLY. CHARGES WERE
LAID BY PROSECUTION IN 29 PAGE DOCUMENT WITH 200 PAGE
ANNEX OF LETTERS AND INSTRUCTIONS ALLEGEDLY WRITTEN BY
BREYTENBACH. CHARGES REVOLVE AROUND ATTEMPT BY
BREYTENBACH TO RECRUIT PRISON WARDEN TO HELP HIM ESCAPE
AND TO PERFORM ACTS OF SABOTAGE DURING LAST YEARS

DISTURBANCES IN ORDER TO OVERTHROW SAG AND ESTABLISH BLACK GOVT. PROSECUTION STATED THAT ITS MAIN WITNESS WOULD BE THE AFOREMENTIONED WARDEN, PIETER GROENEWALD. BREYTENBACH PLEADED NOT GUILTY. CASE WAS POSTPONED UNTIL JUNE 23 TO GIVE DEFENSE TIME TO EXAMINE TAPES ALLEGEDLY MADE BY GROENEWALD DURING CONVERSATIONS WITH BREYTENBACH.

3. TWELVE ANC MEMBERS AGAIN APPEARED IN LEG IRONS, WHICH WERE REMOVED IN THE DOCK, AND TO THE ACCOMPANIMENT OF LARGE VOCAL CROWD GIVING BLACK POWER SALUTES. AFTER CHARGES WERE LAID, PROSECUTION SAID IT WOULD PROVE THAT ANC WAS TRYING TO INSTITUTE "WHITE LEAD RUSSIAN-MARXIST GOVT" IN SOUTH AFRICA AND THAT IT WAS REALLY FRONT FOR COMMUNIST PARTY. ANC HAD "SOLD OUT" BLACK NATIONALISM TO RUSSIA AND HAD INFLTRATED SUCH GROUPS AS SOWETO SRC. FIRST STATE WITNESS - A MR. RWAXA - WAS CALLED TO TESTIFY ON FIRST DAY AND HIS TESTIMONY HAS CONTINUED ON JUNE 21. HE ALLEGES TO HAVE PARTICIPATED WITH SOME OF ACCUSED IN RECRUITMENT AND MOVEMENT OF PERSONS TO SWAZILAND AND MOZAMBIQUE FOR MILITARY TRAINING.

4. COMMENT: ACCORDING TO DEFENSE ATTORNEYS, TRIAL OF "TWELVE" WILL CONTINUE TOMORROW AND THEN BT POSTPONED FOR A WEEK. THEY EXPECT AT LEAST THIRTEEN STATE WITNESSES AND ANTICIPATE THAT TRIAL WILL LAST LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SEVERAL MONTHS. THREE OF DEFENDENTS HAVE ALREADY SERVED LENGTHY TERMS ON ROBBEN ISLAND AND OTHERS HAVE KNOWN ANC CONNECTIONS. ACCORDING TO ONE ATTORNEY, THIS IS "VERY HEAVY STUFF" AND MOST OF DEFENDENTS ARE RESOLVED TO "SPEND THEIR LIVES ON THE ISLAND."BOWDLER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TRIALS, COURT PROCEEDINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PRETOR03046
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770221-0282
Format: TEL
From: PRETORIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770635/aaaabeqb.tel
Line Count: 99
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ca476479-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 PRETORIA 3004, 77 PRETORIA 2315
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2082261
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TWO MAJOR TRIALS BEGIN IN PRETORIA
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, SF
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ca476479-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009